

Camden Cyclist

Camden Cyclists' News April/May 2011

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Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are now held on the **third** Monday of every month.

Next meetings:

Monday 18 April at 7.30pm

Monday 16 May at 7.30pm

This is our Annual (General!?) Meeting. We will elect our Committee and review the year. Cllr Paul Braithwaite will be our Guest Speaker. He will speak about Air Quality and Cycling.

Meetings are held at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Road) NW1 8TN. We hold a committee/business meeting an hour before our main members' meeting to which all interested cyclists are welcome.

Future Veloteer Rides

We will be holding two more short rides round small sections of Camden, so that we can suggest routes, cycle parking and other improvements to the Council. These rides are your chance to enhance your own area. The rides will finish at an eatery for lunch and debrief. These rides last 1½-2 hours.



Camden Town

Meet:

Saturday 16 April.

11am

The Honest Sausage,
Regents Park Broadwalk
NW1 4NU

Contact: Jean

Map of planned route is at

<http://tinyurl.com/6fyvplp>

South Hampstead and Swiss Cottage

Saturday 21 May.

Meet:

11am

Hampstead Theatre,
Swiss Cottage.

Contact:

Meade

Spring Rides

Our leisure rides resume on Sunday 10 April when James will be leading a ride on the

Thames Towpath.

James says: "Ride along the Regents Canal & Thames towpaths to Richmond, returning via Wimbledon Common, the river Wandle and Clapham Common. Lunch and tea stops. Shouldn't need lights! About 35 miles; lunch will be at a pub in Mortlake. One amazingly steep hill but otherwise quite reasonable. Tea stop on Wimbledon Common, all things being equal."

Meet

Interchange Studio
Haverstock Hill NW3 4QP
(100 m up from Belsize Park tube)

Date

Sunday 10 April 2011

Time

10.45 for 11am start.

Contact

James

Family Ride to the Lea Valley

Family oriented ride to the Lea Valley, along the towpath and back via Finsbury Park. Lunch at a cafe by the river or bring your own. Easy-paced with time to look around and visit the nature reserve. 18 miles on (mostly) quiet roads, cycleways and towpath.

Meet

Highgate Road at Hampstead
Heath cycleway (near tennis
courts NW5 1RP)

Date

Sunday 15 May 2011

Time

10.15 for 10.30 start

Contact

John

Hire Bikes Come North

There are moves afoot to extend the Barclays Cycle Hire scheme to several locations around Camden Town. Camden Cyclists have been giving feedback to Camden Council as to where best these hire stations should be sited. The presence of hire bikes in Zone 2 could make commuting much cheaper for those who wish to complete their journey on two wheels.

Cycle Superhighway 11

CS11 is proposed to run up the A41, from Baker Street to the Finchley Road/Hendon Way junction at the Camden Barnet boundary. There are several inimical features of this road and Camden Cyclists took part in an Inspection Ride in March to help improve matters.

The Bus Lanes should be enforced from 7am - 10am and 4pm - 7pm in both directions, which is not currently the case.

The junction round Lords Cricket Ground is a blackspot for cyclists' collisions and several proposals have been put forward to improve this. Swiss Cottage gyratory is difficult and dangerous; it appears that TfL is not averse to removing the gyratory and reinstating two-way working. Apparently, Camden had objected to this but this fact was news to some Camden officers!



One of the proposals is to remove guard rails, which could improve safety at junctions but reduce informal cycle parking.

Report on 1st Veloteer Inspection Ride

We looked at a potential link from Bidborough Street to Argyle Street. There should be an opportunity for this when the Argyle Street site is redeveloped, or when the Council vacates the Town Hall Annexe, which will be a lot earlier. After noting that Bidborough and Hastings Street are one way, we moved on to Regents Square whose west side is part of a signed route from Tavistock Place to St Pancras and Kings Cross stations. The link was upgraded and signed after our demo when St Pancras Station opened for

Eurostar. This link needs two way cycling in Regent Square.

We then rode through the off-road link to Harrison Street and on to Argyle Street and Argyle Square. This area has a convoluted tangle of one-way streets. Camden Council has promised to implement two-way cycling in all of the streets between Euston Road, Judd Street, Regent Square and Grays Inn Road. We're expecting this to start within the next year. A lightweight approach (signs only) will be used.

We crossed Euston road between Argyle Street and Pancras Road, using the very useful link through the central reservation and into the ASL. Pancras Road was chaotic due to the current work on relocating the gas holder to Goodsway. But the chaos doesn't excuse the total lack of street bike parking near to the German Gym



We then went to inspect the bike parking in St Pancras Station, which is in the car park. Although well-signed from inside the station, there is no signage from Pancras Road (via the Coach Road, which is pretty hazardous). The ground floor stands had 3 bikes on each and the upstairs one 2 each. We left via the car entry (crawling under the barriers).

We rode up Camley Street to look at the new link through to Agar Grove. People who hadn't seen it before were duly impressed. We turned south via Royal College Street and discussed the *Cyclists Dismount* signs. We stopped in Brill Place outside the UKCMRI building site to discuss future bike parking and cycle hire station. There is adequate bike parking on Midland Road.

Our last stop was at the junction of Marchmont Street and Tavistock Place. We noted the new arrangements in which motor vehicles are not allowed to turn left (northbound), so cyclists now get a proper green phase. It seems that taxis and other vehicles are disobeying the new rule and Camden has implemented a big build out to make the manoeuvre difficult. We ended with lunch at the Norfolk Arms, Leigh Street.

Jean Dollimore